

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4902

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 1814

NEA/INS FOR TELLEEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, NP

SUBJ: TESTING OF NEPALESE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1. SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES, DEVENDRA RAJ UPADHYAYA, HAS ASKED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING TESTS ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SOLD IN NEPAL. UPADHYAYA SAID THAT THERE WERE NUMBER OF INSTANCES IN WHICH ALCOHOL DISTILLED IN NEPAL HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR VARIOUS ILLNESS AND EVEN DEATH. FAILING ADEQUATE REGULATIONS, SMALL DISTILLERIES WERE EITHER ADULTERATING THEIR PRODUCT OR WERE USING INADEQUATE HEALTH STANDARDS IN PRODUCTION. UPADHYAYA ASKED WHETHER USG WOULD BE WILLING TO TEST SMALL SAMPLES (APPROXIMATELY 30) TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER PRODUCTS WERE FIT FOR HIMAN CONSULMPTION.

2. CAN DEPARTMENT APPROACH FDA TO SEE WHETHER SUCH TESTS COULD BE RUN? ALTHOUGH UPADHYAYA INDICATED THAT HMG WOULD, IF PRESSED, PAY FOR SUCH TESTING, HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER SUCH FACILITIES COULD BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE. ADVISE. EAVES

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